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WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Vienna, 14-25 June 1993
Agenda items 9, 10, 11 and 12

GENERAL DEBATE ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS SINCE THE ADOPTION OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND ON THE IDENTIFICATION OF OBSTACLES TO FURTHER PROGRESS IN THIS AREA AND WAYS IN WHICH THEY CAN BE OVERCOME

CONSIDERATION OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DEVELOPMENT, DEMOCRACY AND THE UNIVERSAL ENJOYMENT OF ALL HUMAN RIGHTS, KEEPING IN VIEW THE INTERRELATIONSHIP AND INDIVISIBILITY OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, CULTURAL, CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

CONSIDERATION OF CONTEMPORARY TRENDS IN AND NEW CHALLENGES TO THE FULL REALIZATION OF ALL HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND MEN, INCLUDING THOSE OF PERSONS BELONGING TO VULNERABLE GROUPS

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR:

(a) STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CONFORMITY WITH THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND WITH INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS;

(b) ENSURING THE UNIVERSALITY, OBJECTIVITY AND NON-SELECTIVITY OF THE CONSIDERATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES;

(c) ENHANCING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF UNITED NATIONS ACTIVITIES AND MECHANISMS;

(d) SECURING THE NECESSARY FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCES FOR UNITED NATIONS ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Note by the secretariat

The attention of the World Conference on Human Rights is drawn to the attached joint statement issued by the Christian Democrat International, Liberal International and Socialist International on 17 June 1993.

Statement from the Political Internationals to the World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, June 1993

The world's three political internationals participating at the World Conference on Human Rights have agreed to make joint recommendations to the World Conference meeting in Vienna.

We recommend that the United Nations take specific steps to strengthen global human rights and that the UN improve its own human rights coordination, monitoring, intervention capabilities and human rights resources.

We also agree to promote the ratification of human rights treaties and to promote the establishment of national human rights parliamentary committees as steps in supporting stronger UN efforts and abilities.

Recognising that this is an unusual show of political unity, and that a democratic society offers the best safeguards for human rights, we declare that we are in full agreement and completely united on the central importance of the defence of human rights and the right of the international community to intervene to defend them.

The Internationals are convinced that human rights are universal and indivisible.

The Internationals commit themselves to take common initiatives to promote universal respect for human rights. We agree to jointly monitor human rights situations and human rights compliance.

We recommend:

1. That this Conference urge all states to ratify the international human rights covenants and treaties without delay. Universal ratification should be achieved no later than the year 2000. Ratifications should be secured without reservation.

2. That governments should comply with their reporting obligations to the human rights monitoring committees. They should cooperate with procedures allowing for individual complaints and give free access to fact finding activities by Special Rapporteurs and Working Groups.

3. The establishment of a Special Commissioner for Human Rights in order to improve the United Nations system of coordination and in order to facilitate rapid intervention in urgent human rights situations.

4. The urgent adoption of a Declaration on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders.

5. Adoption by the next General Assembly of the draft Declaration on Violence Agalnst Women and the appointment of a special UN Rapporteur on this issue.

6. Enforcement of humanitarian norms and adoption of extra measures for assistance to children in war zones.

7. That the Conference recommend effective implementation procedures to enforce the UN Declaration on National, Ethnic and Religious Minorities.

8. Adoption this year of a Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

9. Improving the operation and resources of the UN Human Rights Centre in order to strengthen its administration and activities. The Centre's budget should be doubled within the next two years and its staff enlarged to meet growing human rights challenges.

10. That the Secretary-General of the United Nations appoint a special committee, with the participation of governments, non-governmental organizations and relevant UN agencies, to design an action program for the implementation of the decisions of this Conference. The three Political Internationals offer to assist in this work.

Vienna, June 17, 1993

Christian Democrat International Liberal International

Socialist International